

**CITY OF THORNTON
PROCLAMATION**

A PROCLAMATION TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND ITS NEED FOR HABITATS IN NORTH AMERICA.

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, both the western and eastern monarch butterfly populations have experienced significant declines; and less than one percent of the western population exists while the eastern population has fallen by as much as 90%; and

WHEREAS, cities, towns, counties and communities play a critical role in helping save the monarch butterfly by providing habitats including native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants at public parks, median strips, community gardens, and municipal buildings including fire stations and recreation centers; and

WHEREAS, simple changes in landscaping practices can make a big difference for monarch habitats such as implementing mowing best practices, limiting use of pesticides/herbicides, and establishing water-wise gardens which contain native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants in the park areas surrounding the Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center, Fire Station 5, the flower bed at East Lake Village Tennis Courts, the roundabout located on East 108th Avenue, and in the right-of-way on Colorado Boulevard from East 112th to East 115th Avenues; and

WHEREAS, protecting known critical monarch breeding habitats, such as along Signal Ditch/Lee Lateral as identified by on-going Monarch Citizen Science initiatives, from spraying, or mowing during crucial breeding periods will have a major positive impact on monarch populations; and supporting on-going Monarch Citizen Science initiatives such as Monarch Watch and Monarch Larva Monitoring Project will continue to advise monarch conservation efforts; and

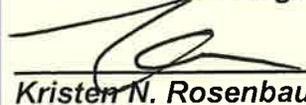
WHEREAS, in 2021, the City implemented a new program called Naturally Thornton where designated areas landscaped with passive high water demand bluegrass are being replaced with sustainable Colorado grasses, milkweed and nectar sources, transitioning low-use spaces from turf-grass into sustainable, Colorado-friendly, water-wise landscapes while enhancing native and resilient vegetation for pollinators including the monarch and other wildlife; and continues to cultivate new gardens which will contain milkweeds and nectar-producing plants throughout its boundaries which will include medians and public rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City supported a pollinators educational booth including a native milkweed and nectar-producing plant giveaway conducted by local pollinator advocates during Thorntonfest to encourage residents to plant native gardens; and Monarch Ambassadors will also be attending Harvest Fest for that same purpose; and

WHEREAS, every Thornton resident can make a difference for the monarchs by planting native milkweed and nectar-producing plants to provide habitat for the monarchs and pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn, and play.

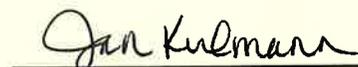
NOW THEREFORE, I, Jan Kulmann, Mayor of the City of Thornton, Colorado, urge residents to help restore habitats for the monarch butterfly so that these magnificent butterflies will once again flourish across the continent.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 17th day of August, 2021.



Kristen N. Rosenbaum, City Clerk

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO



Jan Kulmann, Mayor